

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO):

(a) As informed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) it engages Consultants with specialized knowledge from time to time as per its need.

(b) The number of Consultants engaged by NHRC during the years 1999 and 2000 was 6 and 5 respectively. The number of Consultants who were relieved due to completion of their term of engagement during these years was 13 and 9 respectively.

(c) Consultants are initially engaged on a trial basis for a period of 2-3 months and extension is allowed only on satisfactory performance of Consultants. Consultants who prove to be competent are retained for further periods as per the requirements of NHRC. No Consultants were removed before the period of their contract had expired. Consultants are hired based on their past experience and expertise and it is not necessary that they should be Law Graduates.

(d) Does not arise.

Bifurcation of Chandigarh as Capital for Punjab or Haryana

*154. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to give Chandigarh as State Capital either to Punjab or Haryana;

(b) if not, whether both the States are required to build their own Capitals; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Chandigarh is proposed to be bifurcated to be merged with the States of Punjab and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO):

(a) At present there is no proposal before the Government to change the constitutional position of Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.